

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2865
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2169

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO
SUBJECT: NPG: APRIL 21 NPG PERMREP MEETING

REF: USNATO 2027 (DTG 071705Z APR 77)

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW IN PARA 2 THE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A LETTER TO SYG LUNS FROM THE BELGIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (SCHUURMANS), WHICH ALSO WAS SENT TO ALLIES IN RESPONSE TO SYG LUNS' REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF WRITTEN VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE APRIL 21 NPG PERMREP MEETING. THE LETTER OUTLINES A BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR A NATO CRUISE MISSILE STUDY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

TO RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN YOUR PO/77/45 OF 23 MARCH 1977, AND WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING THE MEETING
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OF THE 21ST OF THIS MONTH, I HAVE THE HONOR TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE USE OF NON-BALLISTIC MISSILES:

1. MY GOVERNMENT SHARES THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE OPPORTUNE TO PROCEED WITH AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF ALL THE ASPECTS LINKED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES. IN ITS OPINION, SUCH A STUDY SHOULD COVER NOTABLY DEFENSE PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A STEP INsofar AS IT CONCERNS ARMS CONTROL.

2. AS FOR DEFENSE, THE STUDY ENVISAGED SHOULD COVER THE CONVENTIONAL AS WELL AS THE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES OF THIS TYPE OF ARMAMENT, SHOULD COVER STRATEGIC USE AS WELL AS TACTICAL USE, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS.

3. A SPECIAL CHAPTER COULD USEFULLY BE DEVOTED TO QUESTIONS OF COST, RATIONALIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF CRUISE MISSILES.

4. AS FOR ARMS CONTROL, THE STUDY CONCERN VERIFICATION AS WELL AS THE RISKS OF PROLIFERATION, EVEN OUTSIDE NATO'S ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

5. THE STUDY IN QUESTION COULD BE GIVEN BY THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP TO AN AD HOC GROUP, IN KEEPING WITH THE PRECEDENT FOLLOWED FOR THE GROUP OF STUDIES ON TECHNOLOGY, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION ARISING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS FOR ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS REASON FOR THIS WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITH GREAT DILIGENCE.

END TEXT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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